

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2472**

---

**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By** House Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake, Warnick, Condotta, Sells, Linville, Hinkle, VanDeWege, McCoy, Lantz, Morrell, Loomis, Kretz, Chase, Kristiansen, and McDonald; by request of Department of Natural Resources)

READ FIRST TIME 01/22/08.

1       AN ACT Relating to establishing a work group to make  
2 recommendations for improving recreation on state trust lands, aquatic  
3 lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural  
4 resources; and creating new sections.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that recreational  
7 opportunities are instrumental in promoting human health and well-being  
8 and are part of the heritage of Washington. State trust lands, aquatic  
9 lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural  
10 resources provide significant recreational opportunities, along with  
11 other social, economic, and environmental benefits. Lands managed by  
12 the department of natural resources provide, among other values:

- 13       (a) Renewable energy resources;  
14       (b) Sustainable revenue for school construction, local governments,  
15 and other state institutions;  
16       (c) Recreational and educational opportunities;  
17       (d) Habitat for fish and wildlife;  
18       (e) Clean air and water; and

1 (f) Funding for restoration and public access to state-owned  
2 aquatic lands.

3 (2) The legislature further finds that the state's population has  
4 nearly doubled from three million four hundred thousand to six million  
5 five hundred thousand since the multiple use concept was adopted under  
6 chapter 79.10 RCW, and is projected to increase by another two million  
7 two hundred thousand by 2030. Population growth has increased demand  
8 for recreational access and presents current and future challenges that  
9 must be addressed, such as: New forms of trail-based recreation that  
10 compete with traditional uses; the rapid increase of motorized and  
11 mechanized recreation; changes in ownership patterns of large land  
12 holdings across the state; the incompatibility of certain human  
13 activities with environmental protections for endangered species, clean  
14 water, and habitat; and increased competition for funding.

15 (3) The legislature further finds that efforts by the department of  
16 natural resources to consolidate state trust lands will provide more  
17 opportunities for citizens to access larger blocks of state-owned  
18 lands. Therefore, it is prudent to reexamine the policies for  
19 recreational access on state-owned lands and establish a vision for the  
20 future with recommended policy improvements that are:

- 21 (a) Environmentally responsible;
- 22 (b) Sustainably funded; and
- 23 (c) Compatible with trust land and state land management  
24 obligations.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A work group is established to make  
26 recommendations to improve recreation on state trust lands, aquatic  
27 lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural  
28 resources. The work group shall examine relevant existing laws and  
29 rules and recommend policy changes and funding alternatives for  
30 consideration by the legislature to ensure safe, sustainable, and  
31 enjoyable recreational access.

32 (2) Members of the work group must be appointed by the commissioner  
33 of public lands. The work group is to be comprised of a balanced  
34 representation, such as individuals, organization representatives, and  
35 governmental entities with various recreational, environmental, and  
36 sporting interests, knowledge, and perspectives regarding specific

1 regions of the state. In addition, representatives of the governor's  
2 office, the legislature, and tribal government must be given the  
3 opportunity to participate.

4 (3) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's  
5 designee, shall serve as chair, and the department of natural resources  
6 shall provide technical and staff support for the work group created by  
7 this section.

8 (4) Work group members shall be compensated as provided in RCW  
9 43.03.250 and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses as  
10 provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Costs associated with the  
11 work group must be paid by the department of natural resources from the  
12 general fund appropriation made available to the department of natural  
13 resources.

14 (5) The work group shall conduct a minimum of two open public  
15 workshops to solicit input from key stakeholders, citizens, and local  
16 jurisdictions.

17 (6) The work group shall hold meetings, at diverse locations  
18 throughout the state, to gather input from key stakeholders, citizens,  
19 and local jurisdictions regarding the group's proposed recommendations.

20 (7) The work group shall coordinate with any stakeholder  
21 recreational advisory committees appointed or established by the  
22 commissioner of public lands.

23 (8) The commissioner of public lands shall submit to the  
24 appropriate standing committees of the legislature, no later than  
25 December 1, 2008, its findings and recommendations for legislation that  
26 is necessary to implement the work group's findings.

--- END ---